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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re patent application of  
Black et al.

Serial No. 10/039,635

Filed: January 2, 2002

Group Art Unit: 2881

Atty. Docket: YOR920010319US1

Examiner: Johnston, Phillip A.

For: SCANNING PROBE MICROSCOPY TIPS COMPOSED OF  
NANOPARTICLES AND METHODS TO FORM SAME

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Mohammad S. Rahman

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

This preliminary amendment is being submitted concurrently with the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in response to the Advisory Action mailed April 5, 2005 and further in response to the Office Action of January 11, 2005. Please charge Deposit Account #50-0510 for all fees related to the submission of the RCE and this preliminary amendment, including the payment of any extension fees and excess claim fees. Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

10/039,635

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